



Norfolk Public Schools Public Comment Information & Guidelines

The Norfolk Public School's Board of Education values and welcomes input during the public comment times at all monthly Board meetings. Feedback is an essential part of the NPS Board's decision-making process, helping us to better understand and address the needs and concerns of the community. We encourage you to share your thoughts and ideas.

- At the first meeting of the month (2nd Monday), individual speakers will have up to five minutes to address the Board.
- For all other meetings, individual speakers will have up to three minutes, and the Board shall hear up to thirty cumulative minutes of public comment.
- These time limits are per speaker, per meeting, and may not be transferred or assigned to other speakers.
- Persons must be present in order to participate in the public comment section of the meeting. Phone conferencing, recording or other communication via electronic devices will not be allowed.
- Providing printed materials (paper no larger than 8.5 x 11 inches) to the Board is allowed.
- According to state law, members of the public who wish to comment must identify themselves, including their address, the name of the organization they represent and the topic that they wish to address. Public comment cards are available at the media table and need to be completed.
- Concerns related to school personnel need to be addressed to the Superintendent using the approved district protocol. Individuals who make false, defamatory, or slanderous statements during public comments may be held legally liable. Slanderous comments are not protected simply because they are made at a Board meeting.
- Persons attending Board meetings and/or speaking to the Board during public comment or during a public hearing must follow all requirements established by the Board, as well as all Board and staff directions in order to help maintain the order, proper decorum, safety and security, and the non-disruptive functioning of the Board meeting. These include, but are not limited to the following:
 - Refraining from applauding, cheering, jeering, or engaging in speech that defames any individual(s), or stymies or blocks meeting progress.
 - Refraining from the use of audio recordings, video recordings, or any digital still images, posters, signs, costumes, other props and/or photographs.
 - Refraining from abusive, offensive, disruptive, defamatory, hostile or threatening language, gestures, and conduct.
 - Staying in the areas identified by the Board as reserved for the public.
- If at any time persons appearing before the Board do not comply with these or any other Board requirements, the chair shall declare that person or persons out of order and require a change in behavior, delay or recess the meeting, or refuse permission to continue to address the Board, and ultimately may require the person or persons to leave the premises of the Board meeting.
- Board members cannot discuss or act upon matters that are not listed on the agenda. Therefore, Board members will not respond to comments or questions. If persons wish to request that an item be placed on a future Board agenda, contact the Superintendent's office during normal business hours.